

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a scheme called Supply of Foodgrains to Hostels and Welfare Institutions to help shelterless and homeless people, not covered under Targeted Public Distribution System or any other Welfare Scheme. This scheme was started in 2002-03 to liquidate stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool which were high at that time. Under the scheme 5% of BPL allocation of foodgrains is made to the State/Union Territories Administrations for further allocation to such welfare institutions/hostels.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The allocation and offtake of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years are as under:

Year	Allocation	Reported Offtake Clintons)
2002-03	72240	72240
2003-04	72240	72240
2004-05	63600	13984
2005-06	60764	16278
2006-07	65802	32416

*These figures are based on reports received from State Government and have not been reconciled with FCI accounts.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The percentage of offtake of foodgrains against the allocation was low only during 2004-05 and 2005-06 but has increased during 2006-07.

Newly developed varieties of pulses

†*428. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research institutions have discovered several new and developed varieties of pulses in order to boost production of pulses in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, number of such newly developed varieties of pulses alongwith names of such pulses and average production rate thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that seeds of such new and developed varieties of pulses available in laboratories are not available to farmers for production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Crop-wise number of varieties released during last 10 years is given below:—

Crop	Variety	Average yield (q)/ha)
Chickpea	19	14-22
Pigeonpea	17	11-29
Mungbean	12	7-11
Urdbean	10	8-15
Freldpea	10	15-29
Lentil	6	12-17
Rajmash	2	15-17
Mothbean	5	6-9
Cowpea	2	7-11
Horsegram	3	5-12

(c) and (d) There is a need to enhance the seed availability of new , pulse varieties. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has the mandate to produce breeder seed as per indents received through the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India. During the last five years, the ICAR has produced higher amount of breeder seed of different varieties of pulses than the indent received (24.0% higher in 2005-06- 43.3% in 2004-05, 41.6% in 2003-04, 39.9% in 2002-03 and 57.0%-in2001-02) from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

However, the breeder seed has not been converted fully into the foundation and certified seeds by the breeder seed indenting agencies leading to inadequate availability of quality seed to the farmers.

Food security to citizens

*429. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) how Government plan to ensure that every citizen in the country can get enough food at affordable prices; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that PDS is not able to supply enough food articles to the poorest of the poor during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government is committed to ensure availability of food to all the citizens. To ensure this, continued increase in food production is necessary.

Government has designed and implemented a number of programmes to increase food production. These consist of enhanced investment in agriculture (both public and private investment) and support to agricultural sector in the form of input subsidies for fertilizers, irrigation and credit. To trigger high rate of growth in the agricultural sector and to make such a growth sustainable, in the recent past the Government has taken a number of initiatives such as:—

- (i) Credit Policy of 2004 for increased flow of credit to the agricultural sector;
- (ii) a package for revival of cooperative credit structure;
- (iii) launching of National Horticultural Mission in 2005 for increased diversification of agriculture;
- (iv) steps for expanding area under irrigation for improved water management, including watershed development and rain water harvesting; and
- (v) setting up of a National Rainfed Areas Authority.